

Remarks

Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the instant application in view of the following remarks.

Claim Status

Claims 1-31 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-5 and 20 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over at least claims 1 and 18 of U.S. Patent No. 6,777,927, at least claims 1 and 10 of U.S. Patent No. 6,587,048, at least claims 1 and 14 of U.S. Patent No. 6,586,926, and at least claims 1, 19 and 21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,433,688.

Claims 10, 11, 13, 14, 16-19 and 30 have been allowed.

Claim 6-9, 12, 15, 21-29 and 31 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim, and any intervening claims.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-5 and 20 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over at least claims 1 and 18 of U.S. Patent No. 6,777,927, at least claims 1 and 10 of U.S. Patent No. 6,587,048, at least claims 1 and 14 of U.S. Patent No. 6,586,926, and at least claims 1, 19 and 21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,433,688.

A Terminal Disclaimer is being filed concurrently herewith to overcome the double patenting rejections.

Extension of Time and Payment of Fees Under 37 CFR §§ 1.17(a)(2) and 1.20(d)

Authorization to Charge Fee Deficiencies

Applicant hereby petitions for a Two-Month Extension of Time, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.136, extending the deadline for response up to and including 25 June 2006, resulting in an associated fee of \$450 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(2).

A Terminal Disclaimer is submitted herewith, resulting in an associated fee of \$130 under 37 C.F.R. §1.20(d).

Electronic payment by credit card in the amount of **\$580** is being made upon electronic submission hereof, in payment of the fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17(a)(2) and 1.20(d) that are presently due. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayments – that cannot otherwise be made to the credit card – to Deposit Account **04-1131**.

Summary and Conclusions

A Terminal Disclaimer is being filed concurrently herewith to overcome the rejections of claims **1-5** and **20**, and to thereby overcome the objections to claims **6-9, 12, 15, 21-29** and **31**. The remaining claims have been allowed. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added by this amendment. Applicant respectfully submits that the instant application is now in the proper form for Notice of Allowance, and respectfully requests a timely issuance thereof.

Respectfully Submitted,

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